



December 24, 2018

Local Education Agency (LEA) McKinney-Vento Liaisons  
c/o Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)  
9300 Imperial Highway  
Downey, CA 90242

Re: LAHSA and LACOE Youth PIT Count Data Coordination

Dear LEA McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison:

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), the lead agency of the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (LA CoC), invites you to again collaborate in the alignment of LAHSA and LACOE's Point-in-Time (PIT) counts. Working together, we can ensure that both PIT counts are as accurate as possible which is critical to our efforts to reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness. As LEAs well know, even a brief period of homelessness can create enormous barriers to educational attainment and have lasting effects on a student's academic success—even after acquiring stable housing.

LAHSA's annual PIT count, mandated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), seeks to capture a snapshot of unsheltered and sheltered persons experiencing homelessness on a single night in the last 10 days of January. This count bears various important implications, such as determining funding needs, informing policy, and planning decision-making.

One of the primary components of the Homeless Count is the Youth Count. The Youth Count is a survey-based count of unsheltered transitional age youth (TAY, 18-24 years of age), unaccompanied minors (UM; 17 years of age or younger and without a parent or legal guardian), and children of TAY and UM. Per HUD's mandate, unsheltered is defined as "literally homeless" or living in a place not meant for human habitation. In addition to counting unsheltered youth, sheltered youth in temporary shelters (emergency shelters, transitional housing, safe havens) are captured in the Shelter Count component of the Homeless Count.

For 2018, it is estimated that there are 1,481 unsheltered and 1,683 sheltered youth in the LA CoC based on the HUD definitions, a 2% increase from 2017. We understand that the number of McKinney-Vento homeless youth is much higher across LEAs, in part due to differing definitions of homelessness in the respective law governing education and housing, including differences between the U.S. Department of Education and HUD definitions of homelessness.

**In order to better understand the differences between LAHSA and LACOE PIT counts, we need your help in obtaining an in-depth breakdown count of students' nighttime residence for the following codes in the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CAPADS) or in the LEAs Student Information System (SIS) for LACOE's PIT count in January 2019:**

- 100 (Temporary Shelter)
- 110 (Hotel/Motel)
- 120 (Temporarily Doubled/Tripled Up)
- 130 (Temporarily Unsheltered)

**This detailed breakdown of students' nighttime residence will allow LAHSA and LACOE to more accurately assess the level of overlap within PIT count data.** Please be assured that only aggregated

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data, presented in a manner consistent with Family Educational Right and Privacy Act requirements, will ever be utilized and shared.

We hope to use this data to better inform the public about homeless youth and provide a more comprehensive overview of what youth homelessness looks like across LA County. Greater accuracy in these count numbers will further validate the work that we all do. It is also our hope that you will be able to utilize this information as you apply for grants, coordinate with internal and external partners, and share with other data-driven programs.

Melissa Schoonmaker, LACOE Homeless Consultant, is coordinating the 2019 LACOE PIT count on January 24<sup>th</sup>, a designated day during the last 10 days of January 2019 and will work to ensure that you have the guidance and support needed to participate. We truly value your commitment to ending youth homelessness to ensure a quality public education for youth.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Clementina Verjan, Associate Director, Community Engagement at (213) 683-3338 or [cverjan@lahsa.org](mailto:cverjan@lahsa.org), or Melissa Schoonmaker, LACOE Homeless Consultant, at (562) 401-5397 or [schoonmaker\\_melissa@laoe.edu](mailto:schoonmaker_melissa@laoe.edu).

Sincerely,  
(PETER LYNN)



Peter Lynn  
Executive Director  
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

cc: Melissa Schoonmaker, Consultant II, Student Support Services, LACOE  
([Schoonmaker\\_Melissa@laoe.edu](mailto:Schoonmaker_Melissa@laoe.edu))